RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 16th March, 1999/25 Phalguna, 1920 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of Caller Identification Device in Andhra Pradesh

*281. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have announced that the facility of "Caller Identification Device" is freely available for all phone subscribers;

(b) Whether Government have given wide publicity to the availability of this accessory and its benefits to phone users;

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Caller Identification Device is not freely available in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the reasons for non-availability of such device; and

(e) what additional facilities will be extended to phone users in Andhra Pradesh to prevent misuse of telecom facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

CLIP-A (calling line identification presentation analog) facility has been introduced w.e.f. 1.1.99 on experimental basis in the DOT (Department of Telecommunications) network wherever technically feasible.

Wide publicity has been given about availability of this facility through local/ National News Papers.

The Department does not supply CLIP device. TEC (Tele-communications Engineering Centre) of DOT gives approval to private suppliers who want to sell this device in the market. 19 suppliers have already taken TEC approval out of which 4 are in Hyderabad itself. Subscribers wanting to have this device can purchase any model, approved by TEC, from the market.

In addition to identification of calling number, the facility of memorising the calling numbr with time is available in some of the CLIP devices. Dynamic locking facility is also available in most of the exchanges.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Sir, with the increase of telephone facilities, there has also been an increase in misuse of phones to harass people and also indulge in crimes, etc. Phones are misused to threaten people, to defame people. The introduction of the Calling Line Identification Presentation Device is welcome. Sir, from the reply of the hon. Minister it is evident that CLIP is beneficial for customers using telephone as it can identify the caller who harasses people and also indulges in crimes etc. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to popularise the device by undertaking its manufacturing so that it is easily made available to the customers at reasonable rates as well as for employment generation purposes.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, as the hon. Member has pointed out this Calling Line Identification Presentation Device is a useful device for identifying the caller. Now if some-one intimidates or uses obscene language, the telephone will record the number of the person who is calling. The Government have introduced this facility from 1st January, 1999. Nineteen suppliers are already making necessary equipment for this facility available. A large number of other suppliers have also come. I want to make it clear that, for providing this facility two things are required. One is the equipment, which is to be fixed in the customer's telephone. And the second thing is that the tele-

phone exchange, through which the line is coming must have that technological device to transfer that type of signals. We have already introduced this facility in 42% of the total number of exchanges. It is quite a sizable number. There are two crores and twenty-one thousand lines and we have provided this facility to ninety-four lakh lines. So this facility is available provided you are willing to buy the equipment which is required to be put in the telephone. Nineteen suppliers have already come. The Department gives only the technical clearance that this is a sound device and after that clearance the applicant can manufacture it and sell it in the market. In your own home State, Sir, there are four suppliers who are already working on it and now they have a surplus capacity of 10,000 instruments. So, the instruments are available in the market, you can buy it and install it. The only thing remains is the technological device which is to be required through exchanges. In one of your constituencies, you have got that exchange and seven people have made use of it. You have asked specifically for Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, 2300 people have already taken these instruments and made use of this device. They found it very usefull. Now, we want to popularise it. We have already advertised it. We are going to advertise it more. More and more peopl. can make use of this facility. They have only to pay fifty rupees per month for the service. It is also being installed in Delhi. Seven thousands people have already made use of it. In Bombay 12,000 people have made use of it. In the next three months, we would be able to put this facility in some more exchanges and by June 2000, all telephone exchanges will be having this facility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Sir, according to the hon. Minister's reply, in Andhra Pradesh this facility is available only in Hyderabad. There are big cities like Vizag, Vijayawada, Guntur and Warrangal and other places. And (b) part of my supplementary is—there is not much publicity about this device.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, we have done sufficient publicity. But, if the hon. Member thinks that there is some deficiency in it, we will publicise it more. This question itself will act as publicity for this facility. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, I have a list of 13 areas which include Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada, Guntur, Vishakhapatnam, Anantapur, Kurnool, Khammam, Tirupati, Warangal, Hyderabad, etc. where this facility has been made available.

श्री राम नाथ कोविन्द: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह जो सुविधा है, यह बहुत उपयोगी सुविधा है और इसके अच्छे परिणाम आने वाले हैं। मैं इस सुविधा के लिए मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूं। मंत्री जी से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने जो ऐक्सपैरिमेंटल बेसिस पर यह स्कीम शुरू की है, इसके सबस्क्राईबर्स का क्या रिस्पांस रहा है और टेलीफोन विभाग किस हद तक इस स्कीम में सफल रहा है? मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि क्या हम सांसदों को भी यह फैसिलिटी उपलब्ध कराने की उनकी योजना है? यदि नहीं है तो मेरी उनसे प्रार्थना है कि जब वे यह प्रयोग कर रहे हैं तो हम सांसदों को भी इस फैसिलिटी को उपलब्ध कराने की व्यवस्था वे करें।

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, as I explained, we started it as an experimental measure. But now it has been made a regular scheme. I started it from the 1st of January to ascertain what the reaction will be. Now, the demand is sufficient and we have listed 19 suppliers. If anyone else asks for a licence permission we will give it. So far as Members of Parliament are concerned, they can also take advantage of this facility in any areas where they are residing provided that particular telephone exchange has got the technological device. I have said that about 42% of the telephone exchanges have been equipped with this technological device. The

reamining exchanges are in the process of getting this device. Practically by June, 2000, every exchange will have this facility and so you can have this facility. You can have it in Delhi. You can have it in Bombay. In all the metropolitan towns, you can have it. So, there is no difficulty.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that by June, 2000 every exchange will have this facility. But, unfortunately, what has happened is that there is a competition among the suppliers. That is one part. The other part is that the departmental officers are misplaying things here. The suppliers have sold the equipment to the individual subscribers, but the telephone exchanges do not have the CLIP system. There, the officials expect something from the suppliers and whoever pays more, his esxchange or his line gets cleared. So, there are complaints. Will the hon. Minister make it a fool-proof system in very exhange so that there should be no interference from the departmental officers? There should be instructions from here that every exchange should have this automatic facility, at least in the metropolitan cities in the first stage and the district headquarters later. Will the hon. Minister take note of this? There are complaints, particularly in the Bangalore area, in Coromangal, Malleswaran, Artinagar. In some of these exchanges, there is reluctance on the part of the departmental officers. Many individual subscribers have purchased the machines, but they cannot put them into operation because the department has not cleared it.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: If there is any complaint, I will certainly look into it. But, I would like to make it clear that the telephone exchanges, which have got the latest technology, are of different categories. All those categories have been provided this facility. We have some telephone exchanges, which have been set up by the Centre for Development of Telematics. It is only that category which requires this technological device. Suppose, I am living in a particular city. I will know whether that particular exchange has got this facility or not. So, the public knows where the facility is available and where it is not available. So, the chances of somebody misusing the situation are very remote.

But, so far as the price is concerned, the competition will itself bring it down.

The price ranges between one thousand and two thousand rupees. Then, we have said that anyone who fulfils the technical requirements, can ask for it and we will give the clearance to him for setting up this facility. Nineteen people have also got it. Whoever applies for it, we will permit him. We are also in the process of giving more such clearances. If anybody wants, he can take it. So, there is no shortage. In Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other big cities, there is a surplus capacity of this equipment at present. Ten thousand of them are available in Hyderabad and Secunderabad. In Bangalore too.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Sir, as per the hon. Minister's statement, this facility has been extended to many towns and cities. I would like to know the time by which this facility will be extended to all the Mandal headquarters and district headquarters in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Secondly, this CLIP device is purchased by the subscriber and the DOT is charging Rs. 50/- per month. Why can't DOT supply this instrument and charge the money.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: There is no bar on DOT also manufacturing this instrument. But, since there are sufficient suppliers and manufacturers available in the market, there is shortage and the price range is also very reasonable, we do not want to unnecessarily get involved in this type of work. So far as the second part of your question is concerned, I have already indicated that by June, 2000 the entire country will have this facility.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, this technology is very cheap. It is basically in-built in any telephone equipment. That is how it is operating throughout the world. I don't know what made the Government say that the private sector will be encouraged to provide the CLIP device. It should be mandatory. When we buy a cellular phone, this facility is already available in it. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will have a control on the prices fixed by the private sector. It is something like a free licence for them to fleece the subscribers. Will the Government see to it that this facility or this system is incorporated in the telephone instruments throughout the country?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: So far as the cellular phones are concerned, this device is already built-in. It is only in respect of basic services that this device has to be provided. So, this device is being provided because it has to be given through the telephone exchange. That is now being provided through the telephone exhcanges, as also the instrument because it is a basic service. So, this equipment has to be installed and it will give you the telephone number of the person who is calling you and it will also store up to fifty such numbers. Suppose, you are away from your house. Whosoever contacts you on your phone, will get listed and you can see who has called you in your absence and so you can call him back. So, this facility has been provided through the exchanges. What you are asking for is a cellular phone service.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will you incorporate this in the telephone instruments?

SHRI JAGMOHAN: It is technologically not feasible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 282.

Check-off Scheme in respect of Unions in JNPT, Mumbai

*282. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:†
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Management, Navi Mumbai assessed representatives of Unions through a system of check-off;

(b) the results of the check-off and the strength of each Union reflected in it;

(c) whether the nominations of the Labour Trustees have been made according to the results of the check-off;

(d) whether the recommendations of Nanda Committee were taken into consideration while deciding the nomination; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBIDURAI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The strength of each union as per the Check-off conducted in June, 1998 is as under:

Name of the Union	Membership Strength
1. Nhava Sheva Port & General Workers' Union [Affiliated to All India Port & Dock workers Fenderation (Workers')]	549
2. Transport & Dock workers' Union (Affiliated to All India Port & Dock Worker's Fenderation)	184

†The Question was actually asked on floor of the House by Shri C.O. Poulose.